

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 DPW-01 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 241100Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2687

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CHIEF MEDTC PHNOM PENH

USSAG NKP

UASARSUPTHAI

635TH CSG UTAPAO

CINCPAC HAWAII

MACTHAI

CINCPAC/PA/LNO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6670

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : MARR, TH

SUBJECT : NEWS MEDIA VISIT TO CAMP SAMAE SAN RE SCOOT  
ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY: MISSION WAS ABLE OBTAIN RTG APPROVAL OF APRIL 24  
VISIT OF JACK FOISIE, LOS ANGELES TIMES, TO SAMAI SAN ONLY LATE  
ON APRIL 23. FOISIE THEN CANCELED OUT IN LIGHT UNEXPECTED RTG  
REQUIREMENT THAT THAI JOURNALISTS GO ALONG AND VISIT BE  
RESCHEDULED FROM MORNING TO AFTERNOON. SOME EIGHT THAI JOURNALISTS  
SELECTED BY SUPREME COMMAND HAVE PROCEEDED ON VISIT. THAI  
OFFICIALS HAVE MADE CLEAR IN CONNECTION THIS CASE THE "ONE-SIDED"  
CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION ON BASE ACCESS FOR US MEDIA  
REPRESENTATIVES IS STICKING IN THEIR CRAW. END SUMMARY.

1. JACK FOISIE APPLIED ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO TO VISIT CAMP  
SAMAI SAN FOR PURPOSE OF GETTING STORY ON US MILITARY SUPPORT  
FOR CAMBODIA. WE REQUESTED RTG TO APPROVE VISIT FOR APRIL 24.

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2. AS OF LATE AFTERNOON APRIL 23 RTG HAD NOT ACTED ON FOISIE APPLICATION AND WE HEARD INFORMALLY FROM MFA THAT SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) WAS OF MIND TO DISAPPROVE APPLICATION NOTWITHSTANDING SECTION 29 OF FA ACT AS AMENDED DECEMBER 1973. GENERAL KRIANGSAK, WITH WHOM WE HAD DISCUSSED CASE IN DETAIL ON APRIL 16, SAID AFTERNOON OF APRIL 23 THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT ACM DAWEE BEFORE GIVING RTG DECISION. AT 7 PM APRIL 23 HE REPORTED THAT DAWEE HAD AGREED TO FOISIE'S VISIT PROVIDED THAT THAI JOURNALISTS WERE INCLUDED AND VISIT RESCHEDULED FROM MORNING OF APRIL 24 TO AFTERNOON. WHEN CONTACTED SHORTLY BEFORE MIDNIGHT, FOISIE, WHO HAD OTHER COMMITMENT IN BANGKOK EARLY EVENING OF APRIL 24, DECIDED TO CANCEL HIS PROPOSED VISIT RATHER THAN ASSENT TO THESE LAST MINUTE CONDITIONS. HIS INITIAL REACTION WAS TO GIVE RTG CREDIT FOR EFFORT ACCOMMODATE HIM AND TO ATTRIBUTE LATE DECISION TO INEPTITUDE RATHER THAN DEVIOUS TACTIC TO THWART HIS VISIT. MEANTIME, SUPREME COMMAND HAD ARRANGED FOR EIGHT THAI JOURNALISTS TO VISIT SAMAE SAN AND THEIR VISIT IS GOING FORWARD.

3. WHILE OUTRIGHT DISAPPROVAL OF FOISIE VISIT MAY THUS HAVE BEEN NARROWLY AVERTED IN THIS CASE, GENERAL KRIANGSAK HAS STRESSED RTG'S CONTINUING DISPLEASURE OVER "ONE-SIDED" CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION. HE SAID MORNING OF APRIL 24 HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT RTG IS CONSIDERING PASSING COUNTER LEGISLATION OF ITS OWN. HE HAD NOT DEVELOPED DEFINITE IDEA JUST WHAT FORM SUCH LEGISLATION MIGHT TAKE BUT MADE CLEAR THAT PURPOSE WOULD BE TO ASSERT THAI MASTERY IN THEIR OWN HOUSE, I.E., THAT RTG POLICY ON NEWS MEDIA ACCESS TO THAI BASES WOULD BE DETERMINED BY THAI LEGISLATION RATHER THAN BY US CONGRESS.

4. DCM'S DISCUSSION WITH VITTHAYA VEJAJIVA, SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER, EVENING OF APRIL 23 SUGGESTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY FULLY SHARES SUPREME COMMAND'S ATTITUDE THAT CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION ON BASE ACCESS IS ONE-SIDED, HEAVY-HANDED EFFORT BY CONGRESS TO EXERT PRESSURE ON HOST COUNTRIES IN DEROGATION THEIR NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY. CONSEQUENTLY, INDICATIONS ARE THAT MEDIA ACCESS TO THAI BASES USED BY US FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO BE SERIOUS SORE POINT

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IN US-THAI RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY WHEN, AS IN THIS CASE, RTG CONSIDERS THAT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES ARE RELYING ON SECTION 29 TO DEVELOP CRITICAL PUBLICITY ON US OPERATIONS IN AND FROM THAILAND. ALL OF THIS INCREASES THAIS' LACK OF ENTHUSIASM FOR ADDITIONAL U.S. OFFICES (I.E., USAID/ CAMBODIA SUPPORT OFFICE).

KINTNER

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